

WEST NILE VIRUS (WNV)

IN PENNSYLVANIA



WHAT MAKES YOU SICK?

Mosquitoes

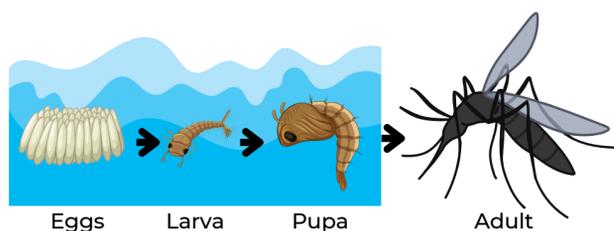


Culex pipiens mosquito

This is the mosquito that spreads WNV.

On average, there are 32 cases of WNV reported each year in Pennsylvania.

Mosquito Life Cycle



A mosquito can lay hundreds of eggs in one bottle cap of water



Mosquito Prevention

Mosquitoes spend most of their life cycle in water. You can protect yourself and kill them before they become adults!

Dump it

Dump any containers of still water in your yard

Drain it

Drain pools of sitting water

Treat it

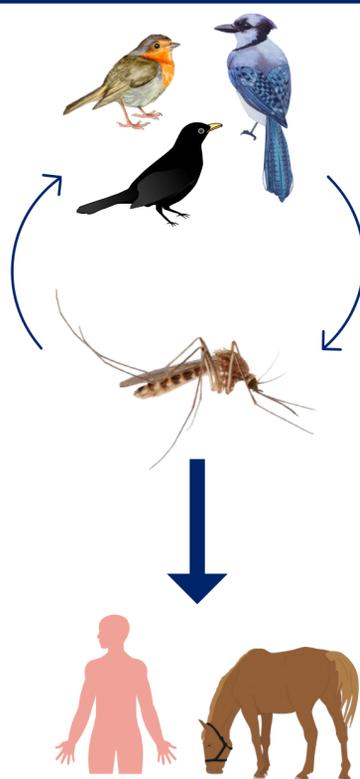
Use Bti mosquito dunks to kill larva in larger areas of standing water

HOW IS IT SPREAD?

Step 1

Mosquito gets infected with WNV from an infected bird.

WNV cycles between birds and mosquitoes. Birds can get infected from the bite of an infected mosquito. An uninfected mosquito can get WNV from biting an infected bird.



Step 2

Infected mosquito bites human, horse, or other mammal and infects them.

Humans and horses can get sick from WNV, but don't build up high levels of virus in their blood. An uninfected mosquito cannot get WNV from biting an infected human or horse.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Watch for symptoms.

Peak WNV season in Pennsylvania is summer/early fall.



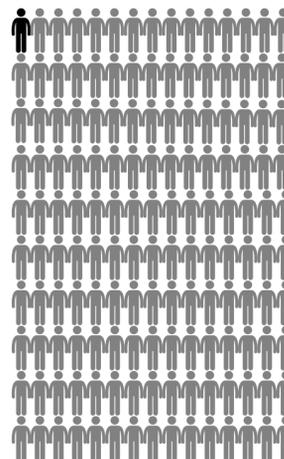
About 1 in 5 people infected will have symptoms of WNV

Febrile (Fever) Illness

- Fever
- Headache
- Body aches
- Joint pains
- Vomiting and diarrhea
- Rash

Prevent Mosquito Bites

- Use EPA approved insect repellent
- Wear long sleeved shirts and long pants
- Use permethrin on shoes, clothing and gear
- Place screens in open windows, make sure screens do not have holes
- Use mosquito netting on strollers



About 1 in 150 people infected will become severely ill with WNV

Severe Illness

- High fever
- Headache
- Neck stiffness
- Stupor
- Disorientation
- Coma
- Tremors
- Convulsions
- Muscle weakness
- Vision loss
- Numbness and paralysis

WNV can be very serious. Talk to your healthcare provider if you have symptoms of WNV.

